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QUAKERS

ARE

INCHANTERS,

AND

DANGEROVS
SEDUCERS.

Appearing in their Inchantment of

ONE

Mary White

AT

Wickham-keyth in Suffolk, 1655.

LONDON,

Printed by T. M. for Edward Dod, and are to be sold
at his Shop at the Gun in Fole-lane, 1655.

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Quakers discovered to be Inchanters,

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A short but true Narrative (part attested upon Oath) of severall passages, hapnings in the Towns of Wickhamskeyth and Mandlesham in the County of Suffolk June 1655. Collected by a friend to the peace of the Church and Commonwealib, and set out partly to make a more clear discovery (then as yet hath been made) that those who are called Quakers are in truth Inchanters; partly to undeceive the people by them grossly seduced; and partly to prevent further misreports (some being already in print) which may prejudice the truth.

Richard Hobberthorne called a Quaker, or more justly an Inchanter, late a Prisoner in Norwich Castle, came to Wickhamskeyth the 1. of June, where at a meeting upon a disputation had with a Minister (on purpose to undeceive the people whom he had there wickedly misled, the sayd Hobberthorne in the presence of many of his followers and others) did affirm that he had received Revelations, and Visions immediatly from God, in such manner as Samuel and Paul had, and that he was sent to call such into the Light who were in Darknesse; he did then deny the Resurrection of the Body, and the Trinity or three Persons in the Godhead; since that meeting he hath dispersed many Books in maintenance of some of those Opinions, and other horrid Errors, set out by himselfe and under his name, and notwithstanding the sayd Hobberthorn at the said meeting, was admonished to depart the said town, and not to returne againe, yet neverthelesse the eight day of June he came again to the house of Richard White, accompanied with Francis Howgill and Edward Burroughs called Quakers, newly (as was reported) come from London, at which meeting here was a great number of people, from severall parts of Norfolk and Suffolk; amongst others from Norfolk there was one Mary White, the Wife of William White of Starson in the County of Norfolk, who soon after became distracted, or rather enchanted, and so died, as may appear by the severall informations following.

The Information of Bartholomew Lenald of Starson in the County of
Norfolk Brick-layer, taken upon Oath the 5. day of July 1655.
before Edmund Harvey Esq;

THis informant saith, that he came on Saturday before White-
sunday (upon the invitation of *Richard White* of Wickham-
skeyth) with *William White* and *Mary* his Wife to the house of the
said *Richard*, where the said *Mary* continued about the space of
ten dayes. In the former part of which time, *Alice* the Wife of
the said *Richard* did read to her the said *Mary* divers seducing
Books (as he conceiveth) and full of Errors set out by *Richard*
Hobbertborne and others, who are commonly called Quakers, the
the said *Mary* at first would not give ear or listen to them, but
on the Friday after Whitesunday there came the said *Hobbertborne*
with two other called Quakers to the house of the said *Richard*
White aforesaid, who did then and there speak to a great number
of people, and on Sunday next following the said Quakers met
at the house of *Robert Duncon* of Mendlesham with a number of
people, whither they the said *William* and *Mary* his Wife did go,
where they heard the Quakers speak in such a manner as the said
Mary wept (as this informant was told) and was much trou-
bled, And he further saith, that on Munday night following, the
the said *Mary White* fell ill, and distracted or possessed with an e-
vill spirit (as he conceived) which did appear to her, as the
the said *Mary* confessed unto the said *Alice*, and the said *Alice*, told
this informant, that the said *Mary* told her the said *Alice* that
when the spirit departed from her, she desired the spirit not to
sing her by the ey although it did her flesh, and it went out at the
window (as she said.) And this informant also saith, that on T w e s -
day morning the the said *Mary* continued ill, the said *Alice* came
to her and read in a Book set out by those whom they call'd Qua-
kers; and this informant further saith, that on Thursday morn-
ing the said *Mary* told this informant, that if she had got the foure
spels, she had had it; but what she meant thereby, he doth not
know, and he also saith, that he verily believeth, that upon the
hearing of the said Quakers speak, and hearing their Books read,
by the said *Alice*, the said *Mary* became altogether distracted or
enchanted, and so continued about the space of ten dayes, in
which

which time the said *Mary* had such violent fits and distempers as that foure or five men could hardly hold her in her bed, and in her said fit she roared and in a raging manner called those about her Devils, saying, stand away you Devils, And she further said in her fits when the said *Alice* was with her (have I come unto you for this?) telling the said *Alice* and others that she was enchanted and bewitched by the seducers, And this informant further saith, that after the said *Mary* came to her own house, she continued distemperd and cried out many times, and said, she was enchanted and seduced, and that they were seducers of Israel, these and such like wordes she used so long as she was able to speak, untill her death.

The Information of Susan Green of Wickham-skeyth Spinster, taken upon Oath the 27. of June 1655. before Edmund Harvey Esq;

THis Informant saith, That *William White* of *Starson* in the County of *Norfolk* and *Mary* his Wife, came unto the House of *Richard White*, her Master, in *Wickham-skeyth*, in the County of *Suffolk* on the Saturday before *Whitesunday*, who at their comming (as this Informant believeth) were very well, and soon after their comming, the said *Richard White* and *Alice* his wife, did discourse with them the said *William* and *Mary*, concerning the Quakers, and read diverse seducing and erronious Books to her the said *Mary*, which were set out by them, whom they call Quakers, the said *Mary* at the first refused to hear them; but on the Friday after *Whitesunday* there came to the said *Richard Whites* house *Richard Hobberthorn* and two other men (unknown to this Informant) who were called Quakers, who did then and there speak to the said *Mary*, and a great number of people there present. And that the Sunday following they the said Quakers met at the house of *Robert Duncon* in *Mendlesham* with a great number of people, and that the said *William* and *Mary* his wife went to the said meeting, where they the said *William* and *Mary* (as they told this Informant) heard the said Quakers speak, and when the said *Mary* came back to the said *Richard Whites* house, she seemed (to this Informant) to be much troubled, and so continued all Munday following; On which day, she spent much time in

Reading a Book set out by the Quakers, which (as this Informant believeth) added much to her trouble and distractions. And this Informant, further saith, that *Alice* the wife of *Richard White* did declare to this Informant, that *Mary* the wife of *William White* confessed to her the said *Alice*, that on Tuesday morning the Devill went out of her, and that the Spirit of God had possessed her, which said spirit of the Devill seemed to her the said *Mary* (as she confessed) to be like to a Knat or a Flie, which stung her by the ey, and afterwards did flie out at the Window. And she also confessed that she did see Christ crucified, and that she was among the Virgins. And this Informant saith, that on Wednesday, the the said *Mary* (seemed to this Informant) to grow worse and worse in her distractions by her staring in such affrightfull manner, that (as this Informant believeth) she was possessed with a Devill, and that she the said *Mary* on Thursday morning seemed (to this Informant) to be worse then formerly, being possessed with strange fits and distempers; In one of the said fits, she this Informant did perceive something to rise up in her body, with such violence, as that the said *Mary* sometimes roared, and at other times hallow'd, and sometime barked like a Dog, and oftentimes in the same day did attempt to have drowned her self, but being prevented and hindred, she did get a Knife (as this Informant believeth) to have killed her self; and that in her fits she was of such force, that three or four could scarce keep her in her Bed; and that after her said fits & distractions were over, the said *Mary* would lie very still and quiet by the space of four or five houres or thereabouts. And by the space of half an houre or thereabouts she would speak in a raging and strange manner, Crying out to the said *Alice*, Stand away you Devill, you Devill, you seducer of Israel; And the said *Mary* continued in these distractions and distempers, about the space of ten dayes, and then dyed in that distracted condition.

The Information of William White of Starson in the County of Norfolk Bricklayer, taken before Edmund Harvey Esq; the 14. of June 1655. &c.

THis Informant saith, that on Saturday seven night, last past, *Richard White* his Brother, living in *Wickhamskeyth*, in the County of *Suffolk*, sent for this Informant, and *Mary* his wife,

to come to *Wickhamseyth*, & that on the same day this Informant and his wife came to his said Brothers house, where they heard many Books read, set out (as he was told) by those whom they call Quakers, & he believeth in his absence (for he returned home on the Munday and left his wife behind him) his wife was there so seduced, as on Tuesday the 12. of this instant June, she fell into a distraction, and thereupon this Informant was sent for to come to his said wife, and according as he had heard, he found her distracted, and she so continueth. And this Informant further saith, that this present day being the 14. of June, she did severall times attempt to have drowned her self, and had got a Knife (as this Informant believeth to have killed her self. And this Informant further saith, that the distraction came to her (as his said wife told this Informant) by foure Spels, but what she meant by those Spels, he cannot tell. But this Informant saith, that in her Fits, he hath observed that something within her body did run up and down, and in her Fits sometime she roared like a Bull; sometime barked like a Dog, and sometime blared like a Calf, and that she did clasp her Legs about her Neck, so round as she might have been put into a Bushel. And this Informant saith, that she was never formerly distracted or distempered.

It is credibly reported, that there are others in the Counties of *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*, in the like distractions.

It is observed, that such as be the followers of the said Quakers, are in their Opinions and Judgments; either Jesuiticall, forbearing and forbidding to read the Scripture, and hold it of no more esteem than Popish Tradition, or Atheisticall; denying the Trinity, the Humanity of Christ, his Ascension, the Resurrection of the Body, and the like.

Their Lives, Conversations, and Practises are sutable to their Opinions, for most of them are (like Jesuites) industrious and solicitous to seduce others, and draw them to their opinions, and do disperse and communicate their Erronious Books to such as they find inclining to them, or weak or wavering in their judgements.

They rail on and revile the Ministers of Gods Word and all Magistrates, and will not yield or acknowledge any honour
or

or obedience to be due to them, or to any other power, save to such (as in their sence and as they conceive) are Saints and called of God.

They hold and practice that they are not to seek God for his blessing upon the Creatures which they are to receive, nor to returne thanks to God for the same being received.

Some of them hold and maintain, That all Prayer is to be laid aside, and not used (for God knows our wants) and to make good this error, they abuse that scripture (*The Prayers of the wicked are Abomination to the Lord*) with these and the like horrid opinions, they have poisoned much people in the said Town, and some other Towns adjacent.

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That the said Quakers do concur in Opinion and Practice with *Thomas Mantzerus, Johannes Leydenfis, David Georgius, Michael Servetus* and *Gasper Snenkfeldius* (the two first proved troublesome to the Princes of Germany, the other to other places) may plainly appeare in severall Histories of the Church.

And that they are Inchanters as well as Seducers, is manifested as well by some late Bookes, set out by *John Gilpin* and others, as by a Book set out in the year 1591. called *Arthingtons Seduction and Repentance*; who together with *Edmund Coppinger*, were so Seduced and Inchanted by *William Hacket*, that they proclaimed in *Cheapside London*; *Christ Jesus* (meaning the said *William Hacket*) was come to judge the world; *Hacket* was executed for Treason, whose last words were as high blasphemy; as ever was spoken by man; *Coppinger* died in *Bridwell London*; *Arthington* (being prisoner) upon notice given to him of the death of *Hacket* and of his desperate end; felt himself (as he confesseth in his Book) quite dispossessed of the hor spirit, (for so he called it) and of all those his grosse errors, which he held and maintained with mad zeal: All which, with many other strange passages are set forth at large in the said Book.

Let this be accepted, not as an intire Argument against them, but as a single matter of Fact, which together with other significations of their wickednesse, and Gods heavy vengeance, may undeceive the Seduced, and preserve the weak from falling from the Faith.

E. L. N. I. S.



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